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**SITE SURVEY
of the
SNOW HILL LANE SITE
(MD-201)
Brooklyn, Maryland**

September 1999

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SNOW HILL LANE SITE (MD-201)

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AUTHORIZATION

The Maryland Department of the Environment, Waste Management Administration (MDE) performed a site survey of the Snow Hill Lane Site as part of the Site Survey Initiative. This site survey was completed under the 1999 Cooperative Agreement between MDE and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).

SCOPE OF WORK

The Site Survey Initiative was proposed to reassess the status of those sites that were previously designated No Further Remedial Action Planned by the EPA. This initiative is intended to determine if site conditions have remained stable, provide a current description of the site and identify and address any new pathways for contamination. The initiative is also intended to enable the State to determine whether the State should recommend further investigation by EPA under the Cooperative Agreement, oversight by the State and no further investigation by EPA, or no further action be taken by EPA or the State and that the State designate the site as a "Formerly Investigated Site."

SITE DESCRIPTION

The 86-acre site is situated east of Brooklyn in northern Anne Arundel County, Maryland. Cabin Branch Creek and Interstate 695 bound the site to the south, the Mount Calvary Cemetery to the west, and the Pennington Avenue Landfill to the north and east. The site is unoccupied and heavily vegetated around the borders of the property. The interior of the site is mostly open fields with many trails heavily utilized by trespassers on foot and in off-road vehicles throughout. Vehicles routinely access the site from Interstate 695, and trespassers on foot or bikes can access the site via trails that stem from the Mount Calvary Cemetery. The only site restriction is a locked gate at Snow Hill Road and dense vegetation that borders the property. Geographic coordinates are 39° 12' 40" north latitude by 76° 36' 00" east longitude. Maryland grid coordinates are an estimated 914,125 feet east by 503,000 feet north.^{1, 2, 5}

OPERATIONAL HISTORY

Prior to the 1950s, available files indicate that the site was open and occupied by one or two residences. From at least the 1950s to the 1970s, the property was owned by Mr. D. Chertkof and operated as an unpermitted dump, allegedly by Henry Siejack. Automobiles and truck tires, household and construction debris, and drums have been illegally dumped over several portions of the property.¹

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DWC Trust Holding Company, which is a trust for the Chertkof family, currently owns the property. The property is zoned industrial and is to be auctioned in October 1999.

PREVIOUS STUDIES

The site was discovered in February 1982 by a Department of Health and Mental Hygiene, Waste Management Administration (WMA) inspector. A visual inspection of the site revealed several separate piles of damaged and empty 55-gallon drums.³

In August 1983, in response to a citizen's complaint of illegally dumped drums near the Pennington Avenue Landfill, WMA inspectors completed a reconnaissance and found five groups of approximately 275 drums in varying stages of deterioration.³

In June 1984, samples of the drums, Cabin Branch Creek and suspected contaminated soils were collected. Elevated concentrations of lead, zinc and chromium were detected in soil samples. High levels of lead, chromium, and toluene were detected in samples from the drums.³

In September 1984, a Site Complaint was issued to the DWC Trust Holding Company, the Potential Responsible Party (PRP), requiring a plan to effectively cleanup the site. Attorneys representing the property owner and WMA could not finalize an agreement on the cleanup of the site. As a result, in September 1986, the WMA's Enforcement Program drafted a Complaint and Order requiring cleanup of the site by the property owner.^{1, 3}

In July 1990, MDE, EPA, and EPA's Technical Assistance Team jointly performed a Preliminary Assessment. Analytical results of composite soil samples collected near the drum piles revealed significant levels of polychlorinated biphenyls, lead, cyanide, mercury, chrome and copper.⁴

On January 31, 1991, a Unilateral Administrative Order (UAO) was issued to the DWC Trust Holding Company to mitigate the threat of hazardous substances on site within five business days. Due to the PRP's unwillingness to heed the UAO, the EPA's Emergency Response Cleanup System was mobilized on February 11, 1991. When the emergency removal action was completed on August 29, 1991, 322 drums of hazardous wastes, 436 drums of non-hazardous waste, and 180 cubic yards of debris and tires were removed from the site and taken to licensed facilities. During the removal action, it was documented that trespassing was a daily problem, even after the 86-acre site was fenced and posted with warnings of hazardous wastes on site. Gates and fencing were vandalized frequently even with the presence of security guards.⁴

GROUNDWATER PATHWAY

This pathway may be of concern since no groundwater sampling has occurred to verify complete removal of contamination from hazardous waste during the removal

action in 1991. MDE well report analysis indicates that nearly all residents within the area are on public water supply.

SURFACE WATER PATHWAY

This pathway is not of concern since sampling of Cabin Branch Creek, along the southeastern border of the property, did not reveal contamination.

SOIL PATHWAY

This pathway is not of concern since contaminated soils near areas where drums that contain hazardous waste were stored have been removed.

AIR PATHWAY

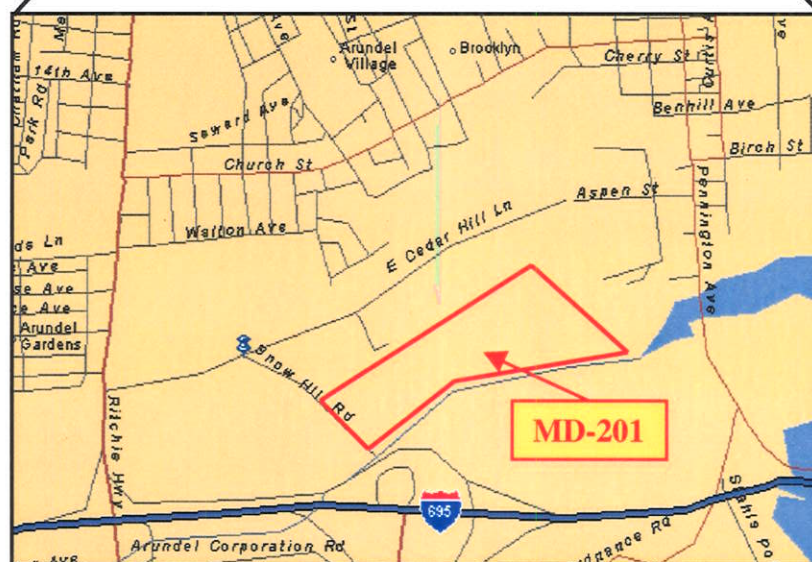
This pathway was not evaluated.

RECOMMENDATIONS

Based on the information available, MDE has further requirements for the investigation of hazardous waste at this site. MDE further recommends that this site does not warrant further investigation by the EPA and that it be "archived" by EPA.

REFERENCES

1. NUS Corporation Superfund Division, Site Inspection of Snow Hill Lane, March 1988.
2. ADC's Street Map of Anne Arundel County, Maryland, 6440 General Green Way, Alexandria, VA 22312, permit no. 10499676.
3. Department of Health and Mental Hygiene, Waste Management Administration, Preliminary Assessment of the Snow Hill Lane Site (MD-201), September 1986.
4. U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Region III, Federal On-Scene Coordinator's Report, Snow Hill Lane Site, August 1991.
5. Site visit, August 26, 1999.





Photograph of site entrance at Snow Hill Lane.



View of asphalt road beyond the gate in picture above.



View towards the Pennington Avenue Landfill.



Photograph of fenced staging area erected during the removal action in 1991.



Photograph from the interior of the site facing west.



Photograph from the interior of the site facing east.



Photograph of the Colonial Pipeline Station located in the north central section of the site.